

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4145

EXDIS

ROME FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

COPENHAGEN FOR DUNNIGAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJ: INTERIM AGREEMENT AND CABINET MEETING

SUMMARY: JUSTICE MINISTER ZADOK PESSIMISTIC
ABOUT LIKELIHOOD OF CABINET APPROVAL OF INTERIM
AGREEMENT--AS NOW PRESENTED--IN ABSENCE OF SHIFTS
IN EGYPTIAN POSITION EG ON EARLY WARNING SITES. END SUMMARY

1. IN JUNE 30 CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE AND POL
COUNSELOR ZADOK RATHER SOMBERLY SUMMED UP HIS
IMPRESSION OF SUNDAY CABINET MEETING TO HEAR RABIN
REPORT ON STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND ASKED HOW
TIME REMAINING BEFORE FINAL DECISIONS ARE TAKEN
COULD BEST BE USED BY THOSE WHO FAVOR AN AGREE-
MENT ESSENTIALLY IN INTERESTS US-ISRAELI RELATIONS.
HE NOTED THAT THE HARD LINERS IN AND OUT OF
GOI COULD RELY ON LIKUD OPPOSITION TO PRESENT
THEIR CASE FORCEFULLY TO PUBLIC. THERE WAS NO
COMPARABLE VEHICLE FOR MODERATES IN GOVERNMENT TO
USE TO PRESENT CASE FOR CONCLUDING EVEN "BAD" AGREE-
MENT IN WIDER ISRAELI INTERESTS. MODERATES NEEDED
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MORE OF A HANDLE THAN NOW EXISTED RE EGYPTIAN

POSITION.

2. REFERRING TO YESTERDAY'S CABINET MEETING, ZADOK SAID HE THOUGHT "MESSAGES" FROM USG HAD BEEN "HEARD" BUT THAT BALANCE OF OPINION IN CABINET WOULD NOT FAVOR AUTHORIZING GOI TO CONCLUDE NEW INTERIM SETTLEMENT AS IT NOW STANDS. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, EARLY WARNING SYSTEM TOOK ON EXCEPTIONAL IMPORTANCE AND CLEAR UNEQUIVOCAL EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT TO ISRAELI RETENTION/STAFFING OF SITES COULD HAVE IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ON VIEWS OF "MODERATE DOVES" (EG LIKE HIMSELF) IN CABINET. IN THIS RESPECT, HE NOTED THAT HARDLINERS (IE NRP, YAACOBI) AND ULTRA DOVES (MAPAM) HAD ALREADY MADE UP THEIR MINDS. HE ALSO CAUTIONED AGAINST ASSUMING THAT PRIMIN HAD REACHED A "FINAL" HARD LINE POSITION AS YET, DESPITE PRESS REPORTS.

3. PURSUING QUESTION OF OTHER FACTORS WHICH EVEN AT THIS STAGE COULD HAVE IMPACT ON ISRAELI THINKING, ZADOK MENTIONED FOLLOWING FAMILIAR THEMES WHICH HE NOTED WERE ALL WITHIN US CAPABILITY TO UNDERTAKE DIRECTLY: 1) OIL--THE FINANCING OF SUPPLIES TO MAKE UP FOR LOSS OF ABU RODEIS; 2) US SECURITY GUARANTEES, (ZADOK RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THAT ANYTHING CONCRETE IN THIS AREA UNLIKELY EXCEPT IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL SETTLEMENT), 3) SOME FORM OF AGREEMENT RE JOINT PLANNING AND COORDINATION OF US AND ISRAELI FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY, AT LEAST IN COMING MONTHS.

4. AT END OF CONVERSATION, ZADOK RETURNED TO STARTING POINT RE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY WARNING SYSTEM RE CHANCES FOR GOI APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT.

5. COMMENT: ZADOK CLEARLY AMONG THOSE IN CABINET WHO RECOGNIZE REAL RETURN FOR ISRAEL RE AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT IS IN REALM US-ISRAELI RELATIONS. IT IS HIS BELIEF THAT CABINET MAY ACTUALLY DECIDE
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ONE WAY OR OTHER AT NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON JULY 6, THREE DAYS AFTER DINITZ' RETURN. HENCE HIS CONCERN THAT ANY "GOOD" NEWS RE EGYPTIAN POSITION ON EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS BE COMMUNICATED TO GOI ASAP WITHIN THIS PERIOD.
VELIOTES

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